

The Giver

Chapters Seven—Eight

Comprehension and Analysis

Directions: To help you understand all aspects of the novel, answer the following questions for Chapters 7-8. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.

Chapter 7

1. How does the identification of newchildren before Naming convey how much the community does or does not value them?
2. Tell how the Chief Elder is determined.
3. Read the following quote from the novel. “This is the time . . . when we acknowledge differences. You Elevens have spent all your years till now learning to fit in, to standardize your behavior, to curb any impulse that might set you apart from the group. But today we honor your differences. They have determined your futures.” How do the Chief Elder’s words, both affirm and contradict the community’s values?
4. Write about your observations of the character of Fiona and her abilities.
5. Describe the mood of the Assignment ceremony.
6. Articulate why using precise language is important to the community.
7. How does Asher’s Assignment support the Committee’s choice of Assignments for all Twelves? How does this show their wisdom?
8. What is the purpose of the speaker telling Asher, “Thank you for your childhood”?
9. Describe what occurs as Jonas waits to be called to the stage.
10. Explain what Jonas thinks when this happens.

Chapter 8

1. Describe the applause when Jonas is finally called to the stage.
2. “Discomfort” is frequently used to describe the community’s feelings. Why are the citizens uncomfortable? What adjectives may more precisely describe the community’s feelings?
3. Contrast how Jonas anticipated he would approach the stage with how he actually does so.
4. What is revealed about the Receiver by the Elder’s description of the role?
5. Explain why the community could not afford another failure with the Receiver-in-Training.
6. How do the rules governing the Receiver-in-Training provide an insight into the Receiver’s role in the community?
7. How do the five qualities the Receiver must possess contradict the usual values of the community?
8. Explain Jonas’s reaction to Seeing Beyond.
9. Based on what you know about the Receiver, would you want this Assignment? Provide reasons to support your answer.
10. How does Jonas feel about becoming the Receiver-in-Training?